



ANNUAL REPORT

BY THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1915.

FLEET,

MAY, 1916.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1915.

I am advised by the Local Government Board in the interests of economy to confine my report to a brief record of what has taken place during the year. I therefore omit the vital statistics and many other details usually inserted.

The rainfall during 1915 was 38·6 inches, as against 32·3 inches in 1914, being no less than 9 inches above the average, and the highest by 4·5 inches during the last eleven years; two wet years in succession had a very great effect upon the level of the subsoil water and the condition of the cesspools.

In October an epidemic of diphtheria broke out: fortunately it was unusually mild and without a single fatal result; systematic and thorough bacteriological examination was immediately made of all the schoolchildren in the classes affected and of all the contacts in the houses where cases had occurred. I wish to acknowledge most gratefully the help given me by the County Medical Officer, the School Medical Officers, Mr. Prideaux and all the Staff of the Schools in carrying through a rather formidable undertaking. By this and other means the outbreak was rapidly brought under control, and with the exception of one or two sporadic cases, was practically over in six weeks. At this point I wish also to convey to our Sanitary Inspector my heartiest thanks for his help at all times during the year, especially for his energetic cooperation during a rather anxious time; in the midst of his multifarious duties he always found time to personally supply the necessary disinfectants with the most commendable promptitude, and to carry out thorough disinfection of rooms afterwards.

There has been the same unpleasant type of influenza as in 1914, with the same pulmonary complications and tedious convalescence.

The roads have of course suffered from the inevitable disturbance by drainage operations and the excessively heavy Army traffic, movement of Troops, etc. But considering everything, the Surveyor is greatly to be congratulated upon their condition.

In spite of the present circumstances a certain number of small houses have been built.

Inspections of houses and surroundings under the Housing and Town Planning Act of 1909 have been carried out with satisfactory results.

I have had an excellent report of the purity of the water supplied by the Frimley and Farnborough Water Company.

The Main Drainage scheme with which, in spite of many difficulties, considerable progress has been made during the year, has had to be abandoned temporarily owing to various causes; the interruption is unfortunate, but inevitable; its resumption as soon as possible will be universally welcomed.

There has been practically no billeting of Troops in the District since the spring, but the Military Authorities of neighbouring camps have been most meticulous in giving warning of any outbreak of infectious disease.

Though several cases of cerebrospinal meningitis (spotted fever) have occurred in the immediate vicinity, the District has been fortunate in escaping with only two cases, of which one, a child, recovered.

The Schools have not been closed; they have been inspected as usual, and are clean and well kept.

The collection of house refuse continues and is better supported by householders.

There have been 64 births and 52 deaths during the year, and 10 deaths beside of non-residents occurring in public institutions in the District. The birth-rate was 17·5 per 1,000, as against 19·4 in 1914, the total rate for England and Wales being 21·9 per 1,000. The death-rate was 14·4 per 1,000 living, as against 9·1 in 1914, the rate for England and Wales being 16·1. The average age at death was 64, if three deaths under one year are excluded—again a very low infant mortality. There were four deaths from cancer, and four from pulmonary tuberculosis.

Measles is now a notifiable disease.

Seven cases of pulmonary tuberculosis have been notified during the year; three only genuinely belonged to the District, the rest being temporarily resident for their health.

The site of the proposed Cemetery has been definitely arranged.

The usual routine inspections of dairies, cowsheds, milkshops, slaughterhouses, etc., have been made with gratifying results.

I am, gentlemen,

your obedient servant,

J. E. FRERE,

Medical Officer of Health.

FLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

FLEET,

May, 1916.

To the Chairman and Members of the Fleet Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting my annual report for the year ended December 1915.

HOUSE AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.—Of the houses inspected during 1915, about one third depend upon well-water for domestic use, the remainder being supplied by Frimley and Farnborough District Water Co.; pail closets were found in all houses; the average number of occupants per house including children was 4.43; the house refuse is removed by the Council from one third of the houses inspected, the tenants in other cases prefer to dispose of it on their gardens.

Practically all the houses coming under the provisions of the Act have been inspected within the last few years, and as I have previously reported, very few defects are discovered.

The greatest of our difficulties arises from the overflow of cesspools during the wet months of the year, and as the sewerage works have come to a standstill, I fear there is little hope of any improvement in this direction until the work is resumed and carried to completion.

There are 929 houses in the Urban District, of which 542 have earth closets or pails, and 387 water closets.

HOUSE REFUSE.—A weekly collection is made by contract and on the whole the work is carried out satisfactorily.

INFECTIOUS ILLNESS.—Six cases of scarlet fever, fifteen of diphtheria, two of cerebrospinal meningitis and one of erysipelas have been notified.

RAINFALL AND SUBSOIL WATER.—The rainfall during 1915 was the highest by $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches for the past eleven years, being 38.6 inches, and from this cause and owing to the previous wet year the subsoil water level was well above the average height for the past three years.

The following is a summary of the year's work :—

DWELLING-HOUSES—				
Inspections	...	...	...	43
Defects found	...	...	...	7
Defects remedied	...	...	...	7
HOUSE DRAINAGE AND DISPOSAL—				
Inspections	...	...	...	20
Defects found	...	...	...	8
Defects remedied	...	...	...	8
Alterations to Drains—				
Inspections	...	...	...	4
OVERCROWDING—				
Inspections	...	...	...	10
Remedied	...	...	...	2
WATER SUPPLY—				
Sample of water taken for analysis	...	...	...	4
Condemned as unfit	...	...	...	2
New supply provided	...	...	...	2
Houses connected to Water Co.'s mains	...	...	...	19
DEPOSITS OF REFUSE, MANURE, ETC.—				
Inspections	...	...	...	33
Removed	...	...	...	14
WASTE WATER RUNNING ON TO ROADS AND INTO DITCHES—				
Inspections	...	...	...	10
Remedied	...	...	...	4
ANIMALS, ETC., IMPROPERLY KEPT—				
Inspections	...	...	...	3
Remedied	...	...	...	—
OTHER NUISANCES—				
Inspections	...	...	...	3
Abated	...	...	...	2
INSPECTIONS—				
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	7
Defects remedied	...	...	...	2
Cowsheds	..	...	...	6
Defects remedied	...	...	...	1
Bakehouses	...	...	...	16
Defects remedied	...	...	...	2
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	4
Workshops	...	...	...	37
Defects remedied	...	...	...	3
ROOMS DISINFECTED	...	...	...	26

I have to thank you for your kind support.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. J. CHIVERS.